

Proposed 2008/2009 OCHA Activities in Support of UNSDI

This document outlines the proposed 2008/2009 outputs that OCHA will deliver in support of the proposed UNSDI Project, as well as the broader UNSDI initiative. This document supersedes references to OCHA in the “*Preliminary UNSDI Deliverables List 2008-9 v0.1*”, which was distributed by the UNGIWG Secretariat on 23 November 2007, and is subject to further development by OCHA following UNGIWG-8.

OCHA Deliverables (Outputs) through UNSDI Project:

1. OCHA will advocate through ECHA,ⁱ UN DGO,ⁱⁱ and the HLCP,ⁱⁱⁱ for all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes to make their geo-referenced data discoverable, which includes caveats on limitations and use, by 2010.
2. OCHA, through the Department of Management (United Nations Procurement Division), will advocate for the centralized procurement of common datasets (e.g. Global Discovery) and proprietary software (e.g. ArcGIS) for use by the UN Secretariat.^{iv}
3. OCHA, in partnership with UNHCR, will work with the ECOSOC Secretariat to ensure ECOSOC is informed of the UNSDI Project leading up to the 2008 ECOSOC report to the General Assembly.^v
4. OCHA, in partnership with UNHCR, will work with the UN Statistical Commission to ensure the Commission is informed of the UNSDI Project leading up to the 2010 Global Census.

Internal OCHA Activities contributing to a wider UNSDI initiative:

5. OCHA will create an inclusive mechanism and process for the promotion of best practices and standards for map production by third quarter 2008; including the conduct of an Inter-Agency Workshop in Nairobi to develop a beta version of a common library symbol set.
6. OCHA's ReliefWeb will promote best practice and excellence in the visualization of geo-referenced humanitarian information.^{vi}
7. OCHA will make available OCHA's data architecture (storage) model, which was developed based on partner inputs in compliance with ISO 19115.^{vii}
8. OCHA will conduct 5 regional inter-agency trainings to promote UNSDI principals through the Regional Cluster Sector Leads Training.^{viii}
9. Contribute humanitarian layers to the one UN layer on Google Earth; specifically Who, What, Where and Financial Tracking Services data.

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ⁱ The Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) is one of four Committees created by the Secretary-General in the framework of the 1998 UN reform. Under the leadership of the USG for Humanitarian Affairs, the primary aim of ECHA is to bring together political, peacekeeping, and security departments of the UN Secretariat to address critical policy and operational matters concerning humanitarian issues and/or crises.

ⁱⁱ The UN Development Group Office (UNDGO) is the UNDG Secretariat working with member agencies to prepare issues, policies and guidelines for decision by the UNDG and its Executive Committee (<http://www.undg.org/index.cfm?P=15>).

ⁱⁱⁱ The High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), established by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2000, is the principal mechanism for system-wide coordination in the programme area (<http://hlcp.unsystemceb.org/>).

^{iv} For more information on Global Discovery see <http://www.europa-tech.com/gd.htm> and for ArcGIS see <http://www.esri.com/products.html>

^v ECOSOC was established under the [United Nations Charter](#) as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. The Council also receives reports from [11 UN funds and programmes](#). The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. <http://www.un.org/ecosoc/>

^{vi} This activity also recognizes that other entities within the UN System also contribute promote best practice and excellence in the visualization of geo-referenced humanitarian information.

^{vii} ISO 19115:2003 defines the schema required for describing geographic information and services. It provides information about the identification, the extent, the quality, the spatial and temporal schema, spatial reference, and distribution of digital geographic data.

^{viii} See <http://www.humanitarianreform.org/humanitarianreform/Default.aspx?tabid=421>